

“(2) The applicable maximum under this subsection shall be level III of the Executive Schedule for—

“(A) positions under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (h)(1); and

“(B) any positions under subsection (h)(1)(C) as the President may determine.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the end;

(II) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) a position to which section 5376 applies (relating to certain senior-level and scientific and professional positions).”; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking “subparagraphs (A) through (C)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B)”; and

(II) by striking “or (vi)” and inserting “(vi), or (vii)”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “paragraph (1)(D)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(C)”; and

(II) by striking “or (vi)” and inserting “(vi), or (vii)”.’

(b) ACCESS TO HIGHER MAXIMUM RATE OF BASIC PAY.—Section 5376(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) subject to paragraph (3), not greater than the rate of basic pay payable for level III of the Executive Schedule.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In the case of an agency which has a performance appraisal system which, as designed and applied, is certified under section 5307(d) as making meaningful distinctions based on relative performance, paragraph (1)(B) shall apply as if the reference to ‘level III’ were a reference to ‘level II’.

“(4) No employee may suffer a reduction in pay by reason of transfer from an agency with an applicable maximum rate of pay prescribed under paragraph (3) to an agency with an applicable maximum rate of pay prescribed under paragraph (1)(B).”.

(c) AUTHORITY FOR EMPLOYMENT; APPOINTMENTS; CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS.—Title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) in section 3104(a), in the second sentence, by striking “prescribes” and inserting “prescribes and publishes in such form as the Director may determine”; and

(2) in section 3324(a) by striking “the Office of Personnel Management” and inserting: “the Director of the Office of Personnel Management on the basis of qualification standards developed by the agency involved in accordance with criteria specified in regulations prescribed by the Director”; and

(3) in section 3325—

(A) in subsection (a), in the second sentence, by striking “or its designee for this purpose” and inserting the following: “on the basis of standards developed by the agency involved in accordance with criteria specified in regulations prescribed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.”; and

(4) in section 5108(a)(2) by inserting “published by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management in such form as the Di-

rector may determine” after “and procedures”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after the 180th day following the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NO REDUCTIONS IN RATES OF PAY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section may not result, at the time such amendments take effect, in a reduction in the rate of basic pay for an individual holding a position to which section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, applies.

(B) DETERMINATION OF RATE OF PAY.—For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the rate of basic pay for an individual described in that subparagraph shall be deemed to be the rate of basic pay set for the individual under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, plus any applicable locality pay paid to that individual on the day before the effective date under paragraph (1), subject to regulations that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe.

(3) REFERENCES TO MAXIMUM RATES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, any reference in a provision of law to the maximum rate under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code—

(A) as provided before the effective date of the amendments made by this section, shall be considered a reference to the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(B) as provided on or after the effective date of the amendments made by this section, shall be considered a reference to—

(i) the rate of basic pay for level III of the Executive Schedule; or

(ii) if the head of the agency responsible for administering the applicable pay system certifies that the employees are covered by a performance appraisal system meeting the certification criteria established by regulation under section 5307(d), level II of the Executive Schedule.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5307(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking all after “purposes of” and inserting: “applying the limitation in the calendar year involved, has a performance appraisal system certified under this subsection as making, in its design and application, meaningful distinctions based on relative performance.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) by striking all beginning with “An” through “2 calendar years” and inserting “The certification of an agency performance appraisal system under this subsection shall be for a period not to exceed 24 months beginning on the date of certification, unless extended by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management for up to 6 additional months”; and

(B) by striking “, for purposes of either or both of those years.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATION.—

(1) EXTENSION TO 2009.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For any certification of a performance appraisal system under section 5307(d) of title 5, United States Code, in effect on the date of enactment of this Act and scheduled to expire at the end of calendar year 2008, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may provide that such a certification shall be extended without requiring additional justification by the agency.

(B) LIMITATION.—The expiration of any extension under this paragraph shall be not later than the later of—

(i) June 30, 2009; or

(ii) the first anniversary of the date of the certification.

(2) EXTENSION TO 2010.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For any certification of a performance appraisal system under section 5307(d) of title 5, United States Code, in effect on the date of enactment and scheduled to expire at the end of calendar year 2009, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may provide that such a certification shall be extended without requiring additional justification by the agency.

(B) LIMITATION.—The expiration of any extension under this paragraph shall be not later than the later of—

(i) June 30, 2010; or

(ii) the second anniversary of the date of the certification.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 1046), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN PONCE, PUERTO RICO, AS THE “EURIPIDES RUBIO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC”

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans’ Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4289 and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4289) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the “Euripides Rubio Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4289) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 236.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate. I further ask that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5069) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

In the tenth whereas clause of the preamble, strike "earlier this year" and insert "in 2007".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DEA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from the consideration of S. Res. 610, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 610) honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 610) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 610

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was created by Executive order on July 6, 1973, and merged the previously separate law enforcement and intelligence agencies responsible for narcotics control;

Whereas the first administrator of the DEA, John R. Bartels, Jr., was confirmed by the Senate on October 4, 1973;

Whereas since 1973, the men and women of the DEA have served the United States with courage, vision, and determination, protecting all the people of the United States from the scourge of drug trafficking, drug abuse, and related violence;

Whereas the DEA has adjusted and refined the tactics and methods by which the DEA targets the most dangerous drug trafficking operations to bring to justice criminals such

as New York City's Nicky Barnes, key members of the infamous Colombian Medellín cartel, Thai warlord Khun Sa, several members of the Mexican Arellano-Felix organization, Afghan terrorist Haji Baz Mohammad, and international arms dealer Viktor Bout;

Whereas throughout the 35 years since the DEA was created, the DEA has continually adapted to the evolving trends of drug trafficking organizations by aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of such substances as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and controlled prescription drugs;

Whereas in 227 domestic offices, in 21 field divisions, the DEA continues to strengthen and enhance existing relationships with Federal, State, and local counterparts in every State in the Union to combat drug trafficking;

Whereas since 2000, DEA special agents have seized over 5,500 kilograms of heroin, 650,000 kilograms of cocaine, 2,300,000 kilograms of marijuana, and 13,000 kilograms of methamphetamine and almost 80,000,000 dosage units of hallucinogens, and made over 240,000 arrests;

Whereas with 87 foreign offices, located in 63 countries, the DEA has the largest international presence of any Federal law enforcement agency;

Whereas the personnel of the DEA continue to collaborate closely with international partners around the globe, including in such drug-producing countries as Colombia, Mexico, Afghanistan, and Thailand;

Whereas the results of this international collaboration since 2000 alone have led to the indictments of 63 leaders, members, and associates of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a designated foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas through the creation of the Diversion Control Program in 1971, the DEA now registers and regulates over 1,200,000 registrants, while simultaneously combating the continually evolving threat posed by the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals;

Whereas the DEA continues to disrupt drug trafficking activities by denying drug trafficking organizations \$3,500,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 alone, exceeding their 5-year goal of \$3,000,000,000 annually by fiscal year 2009;

Whereas DEA special agents continue to work alongside Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials throughout the United States in a cooperative effort to put drug traffickers behind bars;

Whereas throughout the history of the DEA and its predecessor agencies, many employees and members of the task forces have given their lives in the line of duty, including: Charles Archie Wood, Stafford E. Beckett, Joseph W. Floyd, Bert S. Gregory, James T. Williams, Louis L. Marks, James E. Brown, James R. Kerrigan, John W. Crozier, Spencer Stafford, Andrew P. Sanderson, Anker M. Bangs, Wilson M. Shee, Mansel R. Burrell, Hector Jordan, Gene A. Clifton, Frank Tummlillo, Richard Heath, Jr., George F. White, Emir Benitez, Gerald Sawyer, Leslie S. Grosso, Nickolas Fragos, Mary M. Keehan, Charles H. Mann, Anna Y. Mounger, Anna J. Pope, Martha D. Skeels, Mary P. Sullivan, Larry D. Wallace, Ralph N. Shaw, James T. Lunn, Octavio Gonzalez, Francis J. Miller, Robert C. Lightfoot, Thomas J. Devine, Larry N. Carwell, Marcellus Ward, Enrique S. Camarena, James A. Avant, Charles M. Bassing, Kevin L. Brosch, Susan M. Hoefler, William Ramos, Raymond J. Stastny, Arthur L. Cash, Terry W. McNett, George M. Montoya, Paul S. Seema, Everett E. Hatcher, Rickie C. Finley, Joseph T. Aversa, Wallie Howard, Jr., Eugene T. McCarthy, Alan H. Winn, George D. Althouse, Becky L. Dwojeski, Stephen J.

Strehl, Juan C. Vars, Jay W. Seale, Meredith Thompson, Frank S. Wallace, Jr., Frank Fernandez, Jr., Kenneth G. McCullough, Carrol June Fields, Rona L. Chafey, Shelly D. Bland, Carrie A. Lenz, Shaun E. Curl, Royce D. Tramel, Alice Faye Hall-Walton, Elton Armstead, Larry Steilen, Terry Loftus, Jay Balchunas, and Richard E. Fass;

Whereas many other DEA employees and task force officers have been wounded or injured in the line of duty; and

Whereas over 9,000 employees of the DEA, including special agents, intelligence analysts, diversion investigators, program analysts, forensic chemists, attorneys, and administrative support personnel, along with over 2,000 task force officers, and over 2,000 vetted foreign officers, work tirelessly to hunt down and bring to justice the drug trafficking cartels that seek to poison the citizens of the United States with dangerous narcotics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on the occasion of its 35th anniversary;

(2) honors the heroic sacrifice of the DEA employees who have given their lives or have been wounded or injured in service of the United States; and

(3) gives heartfelt thanks to all the men and women of the DEA for their past and continued efforts to defend the people of the United States from the scourge of illegal drugs and terrorism.

DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 777, S. Res. 576.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 576) designating August 2008 as "Digital Television Transition Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the resolution be agreed; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that all motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5071) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make minor changes)

On page 3, line 7, insert "the steps they need to take to retain their television service, including possibly" after "about".

On page 3, lines 11 and 12, strike "so that consumers have time to obtain and connect converter boxes".

The resolution (S. Res. 576), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5070) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make minor changes)

The preamble is amended by striking the third whereas clause and inserting "Whereas many consumers who are unaware of both the transition and the Government coupon program crafted to defray the cost of a converter box may be left without any television service after February 17, 2009;"